

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 PA-02
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P 292000Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3720
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VANCOUVER 0869

PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS:
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ROSALYNN CARTER VISIT TO VANCOUVER

SUMMARY

ROSALYNN CARTER ADDRESSED THE 1977 WORLD CONGRESS ON MENTAL HEALTH IN VANCOUVER AUGUST 25, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 26, AND GRANTED SIX INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS. MEDIA INCLUDED MAJOR INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, TELEVISION NETWORKS AND NEWSPAPERS. SPEECH FOCUSED ON REDUCING STIGMA OF MENTAL HEALTH. PRESS CONFERENCE DREW 18 QUESTIONS, WITH SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE CONCENTRATING ON MRS. CARTER'S RESPONSES TO PROPRIETY OF HER TRAVELS AS PRESIDENT'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE AND WHETHER PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM OF USSR WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. NO QUESTIONS CONCERNING US-CANADA RELATIONS. INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS DEALT PRIMARILY WITH FAMILY LIFE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND MRS. CARTER'S INTEREST IN A CARING SOCIETY. REPORTS IN ALL MEDIA ON SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE WIDE-SPREAD IN POST AREA. COVERAGE HIGHLY FAVOURABLE WITH TRIBUTES TO MRS. CARTER'S ELOQUENT ADVOCACY OF PRESIDENT'S CAUSES, HER DEDICATION TO MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND HER

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PERSONAL CHARM.

(1) SPEECH

COVERAGE BY APPROXIMATELY 150 MEDIA PEOPLE ACCREDITED TO 1977 WORLD CONGRESS. VANCOUVER SUN AND VANCOUVER PROVINCE BOTH RAN FRONT PAGE PICTURES OF MRS. CARTER TEASING TO INSIDE

STORIES. SUN HEADLINE READ MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA HOLDS BACK PROGRESS WITH STORY URGING THAT MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS BE REPLACED WITH REASSURING TRUTH PROVINCE HEADLIN SAID MENTALLY ILL SHUN HELP FOR FEAR OF STIGMA AND STORY OPENED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE S NUMBER ONE VOLUNTEER HAD SOME TOUGH WORDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS. POINT MADE THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD CONSULT PROFESSIONALS IF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM WAS NOT STIGMA. TV, RADIO GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. REPORTING NOT EDITORIAL IN TONE, BUT ACCENTUATED POSITIVE ASPECTS OF MRS. CARTER S MESSAGE TO WORLD CONGRESS.

(2) PRESS CONFERENCE

COVERAGE BY 60 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING CP, UPI, AP, REUTERS, CBC, CTV, ABC, CBS, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, SEATTLE TIMES, WALL STREET JOURNAL, TORONTO STAR, LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH, MACLEANS. FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS DEALT WITH CRITICISM OF HER MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA, NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT EFFECT OF PRESIDENT S HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE ON SALT TALKS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNED MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, ERA, THE LANCE CASE, HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE US WITH REFERENCE TO THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT FOR LEONARD PELTIER. NO QUESTIONS WERE ADDRESSED TO US-CANADA RELATIONS. MRS. CARTER WAS ASKED IF SHE PLANNED TO FOLLOW THE LATIN AMERICA MISSION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL VISITS IN VIEW OF UNCLASSIFIED

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EARLIER CITICISM. SHE REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR A SIMILAR MISSION AT PRESENT, BUT THAT HER VISIT TO THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES WAS VERY HELPFUL AND SHE WAS PREPARED TO REPRESENT THE COUNTRY ELSEWHERE IF THE NEED AROSE. ANOTHER REPORTER EXPRESSED ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH STRAIN OF THE THREAT OF DESTRUCTION BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MRS. CARTER REPLIED THAT HER HUSBAND WAS WORKING TO DO AWAY WITH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SHE ADDED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT GO AWAY UNTIL THERE WAS A COMMITMENT FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ANOTHER REPORTER ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF HER HUSBAND S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOVIET POLITICAL DISSIDENTS AND THE SALT TALKS. SHE REPLIED THAT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE OPENLY DISCUSSED. SHE SAID THAT HER HUSBAND S STATEMENTS ON THESE ISSUES WERE MADE AS A RESULT OF HIS OWN DEEP CONCERN, LONG STUDY, AND CONSULTATIONS WITH EXPERTS. SHE CONCLUDED WITH I THINK THAT HE HAS DONE THE RIGHT THING AND HE THINKS HE S GOING ABOUT IT IN THE RIGHT WAY. THE VANCOUVER SUN S TREATMENT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL TONE OF COVERAGE. HEADLINE: -- ROSALYNN WILL ROVE-- FOR A CAUSE . LEAD: S SHE IS 50 AND BEAUTIFUL. SHE IS ALSO A FEMINIST, SHE SAYS, AND WILL GO

ANYWHERE AND DO ANYTHING HER HUSBAND WANTS HER TO. THAT WAS ROSALYNN CARTER, WIFE OF US PRESIDENT, JIMMY CARTER, IN VANCOUVER TODAY. SHE DEFTLY DEFENDS HER HUSBAND'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN. FULL TEXT OF 15-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER FOLLOW BY POUCH.

(3) INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

MRS. CARTER GRANTED INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS TO THE VANCOUVER SUN, THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE, CBC-TV, CTV, CKVU-TV, AND KING-TV (SEATTLE). EACH INTERVIEW LASTED 5-15 MINUTES. THE GENERAL THRUST OF QUESTIONING FOCUSED ON MRS. CARTER'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A CARING SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES, HER RELATIONSHIP WITH AND INFLUENCE ON THE PRESIDENT
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IN MATTERS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY, AND THE CARTER

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
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PASS WHITE HOUSE

FAMILY'S LIFE STYLE SINCE ENTERING THE WHITE HOUSE. THESE NEWSPAPER STORIES AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS ARE STILL EMERGING BUT EARLY INDICATIONS POINT TO FAVOURABLE TREATMENT.

(4) USIS PREPARING COMPREHENSIVE PRESS BOOK AND SECURING VTR DUBBINGS OF TELEVISION INTERVIEWS INVOLVING MRS. CARTER.

MATERIALS WILL BE FORWARDED TO WHITE HOUSE SOONEST.

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